

## STREET BEATS

## Irish politics ignites fiery 'Petrol' music

That Petrol Emotion, a fiery band from Northern Ireland, doesn't pull any punches.

They make their political views about their native land well-known. The band's album jackets contain lists of charges against British troops for harassment of the Irish.

In their music, the frustration of growing up with an occupying army in their back yard is definitely evident.

Also evident is That Petrol Emotion's appeal in collegiate circles. The band's latest album, "Babble," on Polydor is receiving heavy play on college radio.

"The Big Decision," a track off the album, is rated the No. 1 song at WJZZ-FM, the college radio station of Oakland University.

Currently, That Petrol Emotion is in the midst of a U.S. tour which includes a stop in Detroit Saturday at St. Andrew's Hall.

Damian O'Neill, bass player, took a few moments to discuss the band's recent change of labels from Polydot in Virginia, the tour and the consequences of their political views.

What necessitated the recent change of labels?

"The people who signed us last year at Polydot. The people who we really got on with left and were replaced by other people who didn't have a high regard for our music. Fortunately, they didn't pick up the option [on the contract]."

You're not exactly quiet about your political views. Do you think that is part of the reason for your success on the college charts?

**'It's not a fair question really to ask if we're pro-Republican or pro-IRA. We're just trying to educate people about the war.'**

— Damian O'Neill  
That Petrol Emotion

"Perhaps, I don't know. You know more about the American public than I do."

Has your political stance caused you problems in any other circles?

"We've only played in our hometown (Derry) twice. But we haven't played outside there (in Ireland) in two years. We haven't played in Belfast. It would be physically dangerous because there are extreme people who might regard us as pro-IRA (Irish Republican Army). It's kind of sad because it is our country and all."

Are you pro-IRA?

"A lot of people ask us that as well. Each member of the band has his own personal views. We're just, as a group, trying to state facts. It's not a fair question really to ask it if we're pro-Republican or pro-IRA. We're just trying to educate people about the war. Whatever personal opinions we may have we keep them to ourselves. We're definitely nationalistic, though."

What was like growing up in



That Petrol Emotion will be appearing Saturday night at St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit.

Northern Ireland?

"It was definitely worse when we were growing up as teenagers. That's when The Troubles were at their worst. That's when all the atrocities occurred like Bloody Sunday (1972). My parents were at that march, and they could've been shot as well. You became very politically aware from an early age."

How do you put that into music?

"There's anger, frustration. Even our name. That Petrol Emotion refers to a petrol bomb. Our first album, there was a lot of guitar noise. We love noise. 'Babble' is harsh as well. We write love songs as well. We believe music is a celebration. I don't want to come off as a manic-depressive or anything. We like to have fun."

What can we expect on your first album on Virgin in the spring?

"It's early to say. We've got about five or six songs. We might take a step back from our harsh sound. We're going to be more melodic in a way. We've been listening to a lot of black artists on this tour... like Curtis Mayfield. Don't get me

wrong. We're not going to be like a white soul group and copy a sound like that."

Will someone expecting to hear U2 at your show be disappointed?

"I think they are. We're definitely not like U2. We don't have anything in common with them, except at first, passport."

## IN CONCERT

## ● RON WOOD/BO DIDDLEY

The Gunslinger Tour, featuring Ron Wood and Bo Diddle, will take place Friday, Nov. 6, at Harpo's, Chalmers, off I-94. Detroit. Tickets are \$15 and available at TicketMaster Outlets. For more information, call 823-6400.

## ● JOHN MELLENCAMP

John Mellencamp will appear Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 7-8, at Joe Louis Arena in Detroit. Tickets are \$17.50 and are available at all TicketMaster Outlets. Tickets can also be charged over the phone by calling 424-8666.

## ● TAMMY WYNETTE

Tammy Wynette will appear at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, at

High Kicker Saloon, 593 W. Kennett, Pontiac. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12.50 at the door. They are available at TicketMaster Outlets. For more information, call 334-5550.

## ● THAT PETROL EMOTION

That Petrol Emotion performs Saturday, Nov. 7, at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Doors open at 9 p.m. Advance tickets are \$5 and are available at TicketMaster Outlets.

## ● JOHN KAY &amp; STEPPENWOLF

John Kay & Steppenwolf will perform Saturday, Nov. 7, at Harpo's, Chalmers, off I-94, Detroit. Tickets are \$10 and available at TicketMaster Outlets. For more information, call 823-6400.

## ● DAN FOGELBERG

Dan Fogelberg will perform Saturday, Nov. 7, at Masonic Temple Auditorium, 500 Temple, between Cass and Second, Detroit. Tickets are \$19.50 and available at TicketMaster Outlets. For more information, call 832-2232.

## ● JORMA KAUKONEN

Jorma Kaukonen, former Jefferson Airplane and Hot Tuna guitarist will perform at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, at The Ark in Ann Arbor. Advance tickets are \$10. For more information, call 996-8742.

## ● SQUEEZE

Squeeze, with special guests, The Silencers, will perform at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25, at the State Theater in Detroit. Reserved seats are \$16.50 and are available at TicketMaster Outlets. For more information, call 996-8742.

## TOP TUNES

Here are the Top-10 tunes being played at WJZZ-FM 96.3, the student radio station of Oakland Community College.

1. "Death of Me," Ramones.
2. "Paint a Vulgar Picture," Smiths.
3. "Tomorrow Never Comes," The Mission UK.
4. "Happy When It Rains," Jesus & Mary Chain.

5. "Someone Like You," Divine.
6. "No New Tale to Tell," Love & Rockets.
7. "Glorious Des Larmes," Throwing Muses.
8. "Lafayette," Guadal Canal Diary.
9. "The Body," Public Image Limited.
10. "The Model," Big Black.

## JAZZ

Here are the Top-10 jazz albums being played on WJZZ-FM 96.3.

1. "Gitt of Time," Jean Luc Ponty.
2. "Heat of the Heat," Kevin Egan.
3. "Picture This," Billy Cobham.
4. "Go," Hiroshima.
5. "At Home," J. Seigel.
6. "Collaboration," Earl Klugh and George Benson.
7. "Dianne Reeves," Dianne Reeves.
8. "Still Life," Pat Metheny.
9. "Give It," Hiram Bullock.
10. "Un Poco Loco," Tito Puente.

## Midnight Cafe:

Vince Panzo (front) of Livonia, Charles Barnard (left) of Redford Township, Douglas Lessnau of Redford, Mike Slitt of Farmington, Chris Koland of Westland and Gordon Spencer of Faylor.



By Larry O'Connor  
staff writer

Midnight Cafe lead guitarist Mike Slitt, please take the stand.

Mr. Slitt, this is a subcommittee examining the heavy-metal element in rock 'n' roll. Do you plan to tell the whole truth, nothing but the truth so help you God?

"We're not a heavy-metal band," stated Slitt, 25, of Farmington. "That's for sure."

Yes, but hasn't this six-member contingent been seen playing at noted heavy-metal clubs? And, Mr. Slitt, hasn't Midnight Cafe opened

for bands whose members are clad in chains, spandex pants and leather jackets?

And isn't it true Midnight Cafe's lead singer Doug Lessnau at one time fronted a known heavy-metal outfit, Ambush? No further questions, Mr. Chairman.

IN DEFENSE, members of Midnight Cafe emphatically deny they are fellow travelers. And let the record show that while the band's music has a hard edge to it, it is not of the heavy-metal variety.

Please turn to Page 5

## REVIEWS

MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR (CD)  
— The Beatles

of a mixed bag. The title track and "Fool on the Hill" are essential Beatles; "I Am the Walrus" a psychedelic souvenir, the rest disposable.

As it stands, all the best songs also show up on the Beatles 1962-67 greatest hits package. Listeners may want to wait for that one to show up on CD. (In time for Christmas?)

Nonetheless, "Magical Mystery Tour" will probably prove irresistible for Beatle completists.

DOCUMENT  
— R.E.M.

The knock on R.E.M. is that they haven't really released four albums.

Instead, what they've really put out is the same album in four installments. The rockers from Athens, Ga., have been said to be a tad repetitive in their music.

Well, if such is true, the rambling definitely stops here. R.E.M. has its "Document" to refute any notion their music blathers in a sea of sameness.

From the opening number, "Finest Worksong," singer Michael Stipe walls "The time to rise has been engaged." The intent is clear, and so are the vocals.

And all the R.E.M. hallmarks are there: Peter Buck's scaring guitar work; Mike Mills' thundering bass; Bill Berry's pounding drum work; and last but not least, Stipe's heartfelt singing. Stipe doesn't sing from his throat on "The One I Love," he sings from his guts.

The same can be said of the anthem, "Finest Worksong." This album is no, without its diversity el-



ther. From the "Finest Worksong," there's a jump to the heavily political "Welcome to the Occupation." Mixed in are the odd nuggets as well like, "King of Birds Oddfellow Local 151" and the funky metal guitar number of "Strange."

What comes across more than anything in "Document" is R.E.M. wants to be liked, but on their terms. As a result, they've been a somewhat enigmatic act in the past.

But it's hard not to agree to the terms on this "Document."

— Larry O'Connor

WHO LOVES YA BABY  
— Telly Savalas

One late night I was watching some Christopher Lee-Peter Cushing horror film set aboard a train. Halfway through the movie I drifted off to sleep -- only to wake up to a shocking sight. There, out of nowhere, was Telly Savalas, running around the train in a bright red bathrobe. I thought, "I gotta be dreaming."

Yet it was very real. And so was "Who Loves Ya Baby," although many people probably thought they were dreaming when Telly released this album back in 1975.

This effort might have worked had Telly just stuck to "talking songs."

Alas, however, he decides to sing. His voice alternately wavers and croaks on such tunes as "Gentle on My Mind" and "This Is All I Ask."

My theory is that he did the whole album with a lollipop in his mouth. You would think that no one could touch -- or would want to touch -- Mike Douglas' version of "The Men in My Little Girl's Life." Unlike the staid Douglas version, though, Telly's rendition is hip and



with it, man, with such lines as, "Hey, Popsie! There's a dude outside, his name is Tom, and he wants to take me to the prom. You dig? And Popsie, oh, he's groovy."

But the centerpiece of the album is "Who Loves Ya Baby." The disco beat cranks up, the girl singers start "ooh oohing" and Telly moans out such lines as, "When you're needed, it had because of the rough times ya had, I'm gonna look ya right in the eye and say, 'Who loves ya, baby?'"

Yet the song that sums up the album, and Telly's whole career as a crooner, is "A Good Time Man Like Me Ain't Got No Business (Singing the Blues)."

Nuff said, Telly.

— Richard Lech